

1920/1980 SIXTY YEARS OF STRUGGLE SIXTY YEARS FOR SOCIALISM



**COMMUNISTS AND THE
LABOUR MOVEMENT**
National Conference
Melbourne State College
August 22 — 24, 1980

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COMMUNISTS AND THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

ce sessions will be grouped under four themes, as set out below. Each theme will run concurrently, so that at any one time there will be between formal papers, workshops, panel discussions, oral history sessions and exhibitions. The lists of topics represent a guide only; some may be grouped into single sessions, while there may be others to be included.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND ALIEN POLITICS

the CPA — Australian Socialist
in Socialist Party, Industrial
World.
the CPA
the ALP:
the ALP
ship with Lang Labor
front
ship with the NSW State
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front
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government
s' Weekly

illegal party (1940-2)
the CPA during the Second

attacks on the CPA:
Commission
attempts to ban the CPA
Commission

ot of the vanguard party in

- democratic centralism
- trade unionists within the CPA
- Party leaders and leadership
- immigrants in the CPA
- the CPA's approach to parliamentary elections
- the CPA and local government
- relations with other socialist forces
- the 1963 split, leading to the formation of the CPA-ML
- the 1971 split, leading to the formation of the SPA
- inner-party education
- life within the Party
- the communist press
- the CPA in the '80s

THEME 2: COMMUNISTS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

- the women's movement
 - *Woman Today* and *The Working Woman* in the '30s
 - the New Housewives Association
 - the Union of Australian Women
 - the Women's Liberation Movement
- community work

- the armed forces
- immigrants and refugees
- aborigines and the anti-racism struggle
- civil liberties struggles
- rural work
- anti- eviction struggles
- environmental struggles
- peace and anti-nuclear struggles
- youth organisations — the Eureka Youth League

THEME 3: COMMUNISTS AND INDUSTRIAL WORK

- theories of industrial work
- the Militant Minority Movement in the '20s
- the unemployed workers' movement during the Depression
- the rise of communist trade union leadership in the '30s
- industrial work during the War
- the 1949 coal strike
- the fight against the industrial groupers
- the 'lost' unions (Ironworkers, Clerks)
- unity tickets
- the ACTU
- the rise of white-collar unions
- union propaganda
- the history of individual unions, eg. the Miners' Federation, the Waterside Workers' Federation, the Seamen's Union, the Australian Engineering Union/AMWSU
- rank-and-file organisation and shop committees
- the dilemmas of communist leadership in the trade unions
- a new model for unionism — the NSW BLF?
- socialist strategy for trade unions in the '80s

- students
- the gay movement
- pensioners' organisations
- cultural activities — the Realist Writers' Clubs, the Australasian Book Society, New Theatre, Workers' Art Club, "Power without Glory", Reedy River.
- communists in the Arts

THEME 4: COMMUNISTS AND INTERNATIONALISM

- the first years of the CPA — an alien growth?
- the Bolshevisation of the CPA
- the Dalfram struggle
- the CPA and the Comintern
- the friendship societies — Friends of the Soviet Union
- the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat
- the anti-fascist struggle in the '30s
- the Spanish Civil War
- the Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939
- the CPA and 'Browderism'
- the CPA and World War I
- the struggle for Indonesian independence
- the peace movement
- cadre education in the USSR and China
- CPSU 20th Congress and Stalinism
- Hungary 1956
- the Sino-Soviet Split
- Vietnam solidarity
- Czechoslovakia 1968
- the CPA and independence
- US imperialism in Australia
- the Springbok tour 1971
- the Middle East
- East Timor solidarity